

The Governor's Office of Community Service Staff Analysis

And recommendation For 2011 AmeriCorps Competitive Applications

Provided to the Grant Review Workgroup on November 30th 2011

Staff completed the following analysis for each applicant based on whether they are a new applicant or a previously funded AmeriCorps Applicant. This information is provided to the grant review workgroup to assist them in determining a final ranking. This information does not affect the applicant's application score.

Applicant: Montana Conservation Corps - **Big Sky Watershed Corps**

Federal Request: \$133,000

Total Match: \$199,050

Match %: 60%

Risk Assessment: 19+ points – High Risk (19 points)

	Current Grant ('10)	Request ('11)	Difference
Federal Funds	N/A	\$133,000	\$133,000
Cash Match	N/A	\$94,000	\$94,000
In-Kind Match	N/A	\$105,050	\$105,050
Total Match	N/A	\$199,050	\$199,050
Match %	N/A	60%	60%
Project Cost	N/A	\$332,050	\$332,050
MSY:	N/A	10.00	\$10
Cost per MSY:	N/A	\$13,300	\$13,300

PAST PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

This is a new project therefore the past performance indicators are not available.

Enrollment Rate: N/A

Retention Rate: N/A

Enrollments Completed within 30 Days: N/A

Exits Completed within 30 Days: N/A

Performance Measures Success:	Output	Intermediate Outcome	End Outcome
N/A			

Summary of the Program's Service Activities

N/A

Program Strengths which Complement the Commission's Portfolio and State Service Plan

The Montana Conservation Corps has a long history of successfully managing an AmeriCorps grant. They received a Competitive Recovery grant in 2009 and through this funding opportunity they demonstrated their ability to manage multiple grants.

Program Challenges

Big Watershed Corps received their planning grant in September 2010.

Ability to Meet Match

N/A

Programmatic Compliance

Enrollment Rate:

N/A

Retention Rate:

N/A

Performance and progress toward impact Success:

N/A

Deadlines

Compliance Findings:

N/A

Enrollments/Exits Completed within 30 Days:

N/A

Reporting Deadlines:

N/A

Staff Summary:

- Overall, there are many budget and programmatic issues that need to be addressed before going to the competitive level
- Relationship between Big Sky Watershed Corps and Montana Conservation Corps is unclear
 - Primary contact listed as Jono yet not in the budget
 - Multiple times MCC information or name is listed as being Big Sky Watershed Corps
- No reference or explanation of Big Sky Watershed Corps current planning grant funded by the Montana Commission
- Only 3 of the 10 potential host sites have agreed to sign a letter of intent that identifies a minimum cost share requirement
 - Lacking commitments from 7 of the 10 host sites provides uncertainties to meeting the stated match
 - Application Narrative states two key supporters, DEQ and DNRC who both provide financial and technical support to the watershed groups and conservation districts, indicate that both their budgets and staff are currently strained
- Level of cash match is very ambitious with only 3 potential host sites having agreed to sign a letter of intent
 - Cost for host sites is set at \$9,400
- Narrative lists the program as a single site but there are 10 proposed host sites making the program multi-site
- Needs statement and explanation of why this problem was chosen are not clearly defined
- Justification for why AmeriCorps is the right solution to the identified problem is unclear

Staff Recommendation: Staff Does Not Recommend Competitive Funding for Big Sky Watershed Corps at this time. The program is underdeveloped and not yet ready for the competitive level. They would benefit from using the planning grant period to establish organizational structure and commitment from program partners and all host sites. Staff encourages Big Sky Watershed Corps to move forward with the planning grant and consider applying for future funding.